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& BYSTANDER

clothes for water sports



RICHARD EURICH, R A.



EMION



Shell Guide to Bird Sanctuaries: The Calf of Man

Off the rugged south-west corner of the Isle of Man stands a bold, cliff-bound island—the sanctuary of the Calf of Man. The 616-acre Calf became a nature reserve, in effect, when it was presented to the National Trust for England and Wales in 1937. Since 1952 it has been managed by the Manx Museum and National Trust, and since 1959 has been run as a bird observatory. Naturalists have made pilgrimages to it for four centuries, for the Calf has a fine community of sea birds, and is now emerging also as an important calling point for rare and interesting migrants in spring and autumn.

Richard Eurich has painted the sanctuary from the cliffs of Spanish Head on the mainland opposite, with cliff-top-circling fulmars (relative newcomers to Man), a flock of herring gulls, dark shags and a pack of delicate arctic terns (on the move: they do not live on the Calf).

Nearly 150 species of birds have been seen on the Calf, and nearly 50 have nested there; though, since its only farm ceased work, the annual breeding list is now just over 30. The Manx shearwater has now reappeared at the Calf: other breeding sea birds include a burge

colony of herring gulls, good numbers of fulmars, shags, great and lesser black-backs, kittiwakes, razorbills and guillemots; and there is a small cormorantry and puffinry. Several pairs of the rare red-billed chough nest on the island every year; look out for these aerial gymnasts particularly near the old lighthouses on the west cliffs, opposite the detached Stack. Eric Ennion's vignettes show fulmar, cormorant, guillemots.

Bona-fide naturalists can stay at the Observatory; details from the Manx Museum, Douglas. The Manx Museum and National Trust welcome day visitors, who should take a good picnic and stout footwear. Licensed boatmen at Port St. Mary and Port Erin ply through the holiday season, but check bookings and weather; not every summer day is a landing day.

JAMES FISHER

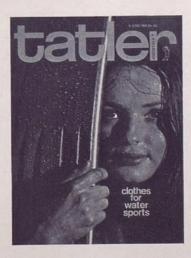
Some advice from Peter Scott: not all Britain's bird sanctuaries are open throughout the year. To avoid disappointment and help the sanctuary managers, please write ahead for permits, keep to trail regulations and drills, and read the COLUMTING CONT. (6d. from H.M.S.O.)

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DINTMENT TO HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN JEWELLERS AND SILVERSMITHS Collingwood Conduit Street Ltd pphire and diamond and diamond Antique diamond 46 Conduit Street London Wr

EDITOR JOHN OLIVER

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The girl with a water-ski on the cover, symbolizing all the summer's water sports, is Danielle Noel, wife of film director Georges Robin. He has recently directed her in a short colour film, *Zabaglione*, with Leslie Phillips, soon to be released. More news of clothes for water sports on page 536. Terence Donovan took the cover picture. The water-ski is from Lillywhites. Lipstick is Laurier Rose by Payot

Postage: Inland, 8d. Foreign, 6½d. Registered as a newspaper for transmission in the United Kingdom. Subscription rates: Great Britain and Eire; 52 issues plus Christmas number, £8 6s.; 26 issues plus Christmas number, £4 6s.; without Christmas number, £4; 13 issues (no extras), £2. Canada: 52 issues plus Christmas number, £8 10s.; 26 issues plus Christmas number, £4 7s.; without Christmas number, £4 3s.; 13 issues (no extras), £2 1s. 6d. Elsewhere abroad: 52 issues plus Christmas number, £43s.; 13 issues (no extras), £2 1s. 6d. Elsewhere abroad: 52 issues plus Christmas number, £47s.; without Christmas number, £43s.; 13 issues (no extras), £2 1s. 6d. U.S.A. (residents): 52 issues plus Christmas number, £47s.; without Christmas number, £43s.; 13 issues (no extras), £2 1s. 6d. Elsewhere abroad: 52 issues plus Christmas number, £43s.; 13 issues (no extras), £2 issues (no extras), £2 1s. 6d. Elsewhere abroad: 52 issues plus Christmas number, £43s.; 13 issues (no extras), £2 issues plus Christmas number, £43s.; 13 issues (no extras), £2 issues plus Christmas number, £43s.; 13 issues (no extras), £2 issues plus Christmas number, £43s.; 13 issues (no extras), £2 issues plus Christmas number, £43s.; 13 issues (no extras), £2 issues plus Christmas number, £45s.; 14 issues (no extras), £2 issues plus Christmas number, £45s.; 14 issues (no extras), £2 issues plus Christmas number, £45s.; 15 issues plus Christmas number, £45s.; 16 i

Baden-Baden's admirers return year after year, for like Cleopatra age cannot wither her, nor custom stale her infinite variety. In spring her background of the Black Forest is touched with young green, alive with birds; in summer there is the glory of the flowers; autumn has a golden lingering warmth; and in winter there is the comfort of a well equipped resort.

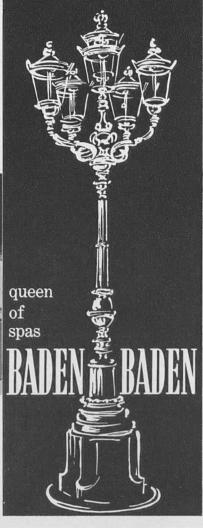
For the energetic sport is always available; riding, swimming, tennis, a first class golf course, and the famous race week in August. The spa provides up-to-date treatment for rheumatism and other complaints.



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KURDIREKTION BADEN-BADEN





SOCIAL & SPORTING

Bath Festival, to 20 June. (Tickets, Bath Festival Society 37 Gt. Pulteney St., Bath.)

Antique Dealers' Fair, Grosvenor House, to 24 June.

750th Anniversary of the Signing of Magna Carta, commemoration service at St. Paul's, 10 June.

Richmond Royal Horse Show, 10-12 June.

Trooping the Colour, Horse Guards Parade, 12 June.

Royal Ascot, 15-18 June.

Cambridge May Balls: Christ's, Churchill, 14 June; Queens', Trinity Hall, 15 June. Challoner Club Summer Ball, Hurlingham, 16 June. (Tickets, £2 10s., from the Secretary, KNI 2869.)

Oxford University Draghounds and Bullingdon Club dance, Cliveden, Taplow, 17 June.

Aldeburgh Festival, 17-27 June.

Waterloo Ball, Law Courts, Strand, in aid of St. John's, Smith Square, 18 June. (Tickets, £5 5s. inc. supper, from Lady Parker of Waddington, c/o 51 Harrington Gardens, S.W.7.)

Lawn Tennis Championships, Wimbledon, 21 June-3 July.

Commemoration Ball, Oriel College, Oxford, 22 June.

RACING

Flat: Brighton, Beverley, to-day & 10; Haydock Park, 10, 11; Pontefract, 11; Bath, Ayr, 11, 12; Newmarket, Thirsk, 12; Brighton, Leicester, Edinburgh, 14; Royal Ascot, 15-18; Ripon, 16 June. Steeple-chasing: Stratford-upon-Avon, 11, 12; Market Rasen, 12 June.

SHOWS

Cheshire, Horton Park, Wirrall; Essex, Great Leighs, Chelmsford, today & 10 June; Leicestershire, Leicester, 11 & 12 June; Sussex, Horsham, 16, 17 June; Huntingdonshire, Huntingdon, 19 June. Three Counties Show, Malvern, 15-17 June.

CRICKET

M.C.C. v. Ireland, Lord's, to-day.

Worcestershire v. M.C.C. (Centenary match), Worcester, 10 June.

New Zealanders v. Somerset, 12-15 June.

National Book League v. Authors, Vincent Square, 16 June.

Highland Brigade Club v. Household Brigade, The Grange C.C., Edinburgh, 11 a.m., 23 June.

SAILING

Shearwater Catamarans, National & World Championships, Poole, 12-18 June.

TENNIS

London Grass Courts Championship, Queen's Club, 14-19 June.

POLO

Ascot Week Tournament, Windsor, 13-20 June.

Cowdray Park, Royal Windsor Cup: first rounds, 12-13 June.

MUSICAL

Royal Ballet, Covent Garden. Sylvia, tonight, 12 June; Solitaire, The Tribute, The Lady & the Fool, 15 June; Swan Lake, 16 June, 7.30 p.m. (cov 1066.)

Covent Garden Opera. La Sonnambula (last perf.), 10 June; La Bohème, 14, 17 June, 7.30 p.m.

Royal Festival Hall. New Philharmonia, 9, 11 June; Philomusica, 10 June; Smetana Quartet, 14 June, 8 p.m. Africa Freedom Day concert, 13 June, 2.30 p.m.; B.B.C. Light Music Festival, 12 June; L.S.O., 13, 15 June, 7.30 p.m. (WAT 3191.)

Sadler's Wells. Gipsy Baron, tonight, 11, 12, 16 June (last perfs.); Carmen, 10 June (last perf.); Barber of Seville, 15, 17 June (last perfs.), 7.30 p.m. (TER 1672/3.)

Kenwood Lakeside Concert. New Philharmonia, cond. Susskind, 12 June. (WAT 5000, Ext. 8060.)

Country House Music: Claydon House, Bucks, Beaux Arts Trio, 6.30 p.m., 13 June; Charlecote Park, Stratford-on-Avon, Smetana String Quartet, 8 p.m. 18 June; Petworth House, Sussex, de Peyer Trio, 7.30 p.m., 20 June. (PRI 7142.)

Fenton House, Hampstead Grove. John Williams (guitar), 16 June; Sylvia Rosenberg (violin), Yonty Solomon (piano), 23 June, 8 p.m. (PRI 7142.)

FESTIVALS

Dorchester Abbey Festival, Dorchester-on-Thames, Oxon, to 12 June, and 19-27 June. Canterbury Festival, 15-19

Llandaff Festival, Llandaff Cathedral, 15-24 June.

ART

Royal Academy Summer Exhibition, Burlington House, to 15 August.

Pasmore Exhibition, Tate Gallery, to 27 June. Royal Scottish Academy

Royal Scottish Academy Exhibition, Edinburgh, to 8 August.

Krystyn Zielinski, abstract constructions, Grabowski Gallery, to 19 June.

Antonio Tapies, paintings, I.C.A. Gallery, to 3 July.

André Vignoles, paintings, Tooth's Gallery, to 26 June.

Eve de Negri, paintings, Commonwealth Institute, to 27 June.

Seascape '65, by eight artists. Ashgate Gallery, Farnham, to 24 June.

GARDENS

St. John's Wood: 30,31 Queer's Grove, 11 Cavendish Avenue, Thursday, 10 June; 9,36 Springfield Rd., 87 Carlton Hill, Saturday, 19 June. 3-6 p.m. Entrance, 1s., three on one day, 2s. 6d.

FIRST NIGHT

Mermaid. Left-Handed Liberty, 15 June.

BRIGGS by Graham













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Sylvie Nickels / End of a journey

NG PLACES

At first Durban seems so English it is almost funny: a southern hemisphere Brighton with small skyscrapers and a far more exotic vegetation. The Brighton illusion is destroyed by ranks of rickshaws with attendant Zulus (wondrously garbed and full of antics to attract custom) and the currry and curio stalls of the Indian market. Most of South Africa's half million Indians live in the Durban area.

Like all big seaports, Durban's harbour is fascinating and its new Marine Terminal is of the most modern in the world. There are good beaches, and when they are too crowded there are plenty more within easy reach. Even Natal's sharks add glamour to Durban for the fisherman. Hauling in a 500 pounder from Durban's south pier is the kind of fishing story that impresses even the nonenthusiast, and one I can vouch for since it occurred during my visit. I am told that the record shark catch from this pier has topped the 1,000 pound mark, and a host of other sea gameamong them salmon, shad, snoek, and barracuda-provide excellent sport according to season. Cost for deep-sea fishing by boat is £2-£3 per person for a day. Fishing highlight of the year, however, is the Sardine Run in July, when sardines surge along the Natal coast in their millions. Then Durban goes pleasantly berserk, swarming to the sea to scoop up the harvest in every conceivable kind of container-including skirts and hats. For true fishermen the sardines are merely the live bait provided by nature for the game fish following hard on their tails. It would be the fisherman's story of a lifetime, if it did not happen every year.

Inland from Durban, the road leads 50 miles to Pietermaritzburg, capital of Natal, and very beautiful miles they are, especially if you leave the new main road to pass through the Valley of a Thousand Hills. Beyond Pietermaritzburg, the road bores across the Natal farmlands towards Johannesburg.

For me the appeal of the Drakensbergs is immense. The peaks gain in size and majesty as you approach them. Several resorts-mostly lone hotels in magnificent surroundings-are served by minor dirt roads, such as Cathedral's Peak, Cathkin Park, Sani Pass. My own stay was at the lovely Royal Natal National Park Hotel. Here you can fish, swim, play bowls, tennis, table tennis and, above all, walk or ride into some of the most grandiose scenery I have struck. Tracks follow the mountain flanks or plunge into gorges or scramble towards the stark walls of the Amphitheatre among peaks that soar to 10,000 and 11,000 feet. The hire of horses at £1 a day, and services of a Zulu guide for 5s. to prepare a braaivleis (barbecue) for you en route seems extremely cheap; full board is only £2 a day.

Just across the mountains lies another glorious and, as yet, less known mountain region: the recently created Golden Gate National Park in the Orange Free State, where extraordinary rock formations are burnished to exquisite tones at sunset. From Golden Gate, the road—the bumpiest I met in South Africa, but it will receive attention in due course-leads one way via Clarens, the other via Kestell to Bethlehem. A typical sleepy South African provincial town and northern gateway to this magnificent area, Bethlehem was named by the Voortrekkers who also called the muddy stream on which it stands the River Jordan. A well equipped holiday centre a mile out of the town on the shores of Loch Athlone, formed by the Jordan waters, makes a good base from which to explore an area full of Boer history, bushmen's paintings, and, above all, beauty. From Bethlehem, you can

return to Harrismith to rejoin the main Durban-Johannesburgroad; continue northwards direct to Johannesburg; or follow a longer itinerary, via Willem Pretorius Game Reserve and Wilkom, across the Orange Free State. It is an extraordinary landscape, for as the last solitary table topped mountains drop behind, you enter an expanse of pastureland and mealy plains so vast that, as the Orange Free Staters say, you can see a week ahead. It is not difficult to imagine the oxen, sheep and cattle, the covered wagons of the brave, tough, stubborn Voortrekkers who had turned their backs on the Cape Colony and their disputes



with the British to find their own promised land.

As you cross the border back into the Transvaal, you return to the hills, climbing to Johannesburg, nearly 6,000 feet above sea level. As South Africa's commercial Mecca, originally financed (as they waste no time in telling you in Kimberley) by Kimberley's diamonds, Johannesburg is Africa's largest city after Cairo. The place throbs with activity, and the traffic and the pace is the same as Manchester or Milan, with the great difference that modernity is the keynote, right from the moment you step from the train into the huge arena of the railway station, or from the plane at Jan Smuts airport.

The airport lies a little nearer to Johannesburg than to Pretoria. 36 miles and over 1,000 feet of altitude separate the two cities, and also a whole world of atmosphere. Unlike Rome and innumerable other towns, Pretoria is built not on seven hills but in seven valleys. 50,000 jacaranda trees cast their shade over 300 miles of streets, and its main artery, Church Street, must be one of the longest city highways in the world. From one hill, the gracious colonnaded façades of Union Buildings look out over the city centre to the Voortrekker memorial on another hill. Precisely at midday every Decem-

ber 16 the sun's rays fall through an aperture on to the inscription Ons vir Jou Suid-Afrika (We for you South Africa) in the crypt of this monumental homage to the spirit, courage and endurance of the Great Trek. In the Staats Model School (now government offices) young Winston Churchill was imprisoned. He escaped in 1899. In

BROAD

what is now the Kruger Museum Paul Kruger lived in no more grandeur than a Victorian suburban home.

From Johannesburg via Pretoria, it is an overnight journey by train to Nelspruit, 40 miles from the Kruger National Park. About half of the reserve's nearly 8,000 square miles are closed from mid-October to 1-May: the rest are open all the year, along with two (three from next autumn) of the dozen rest camps. The simplicity and comfort of accommodation in the rondavels and bungalows of these camps is excellent. Most of them also have restaurants (unlicensed) though many South Africans prefer to cook their own food and there are good facilities for this. The best time to see game is either in the cool of early morning or towards evening, but one of the fascinations of the Krugerand indeed any game reserveis that its 300-350,000 mammal inhabitants are blessedly ungoverned by any set of timetables. I saw a pride of lions stalk, kill and make speedy work of an impala during the intense midday heat. It was a gruesome but memorable sight that even my guide had never witnessed.



Surfing along the Durban beaches

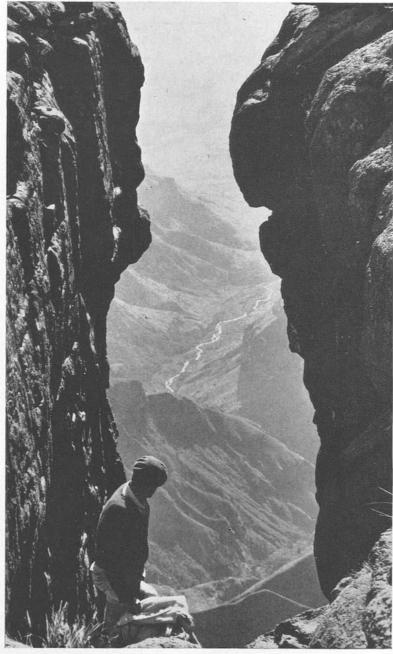
You may not see lion, elephant, leopard, but you can hardly fail to see a good crosssection of the Kruger's 114 species of mammal and the day is spent in a permanent state of suspense. But though the Kruger offers a wonderful experience, its fame tends to overshadow the many other game, bird and botanical reserves that pepper the Republic. This is a pity for Cape Province alone has 17, Natal over 20. In some of them, such as Natal's Umfolozi and St. Lucia Game Reserves, it is possible to spend two or three days following wilderness trails on foot with a guide, camping overnight.

For the third leg of the South African triangle, you should return to Pretoria or Johannesburr and board the Blue Train for Cape Town. The fame of this piece of railway stock (to be replaced in a couple of years tines, though it will go into service on another route) lies not in its speed—it takes 27 hours to to the 999 mile journey from Pretoria-but in its comfort. Sunset over the Karoo (through which much of the journey takes place) is a wondrous sight, and there is no better place from which to view this thirsty semi-desert of one of the world's great wool producing areas than from the elegant observation-cum-cocktail lounge or the comfortable dining car.

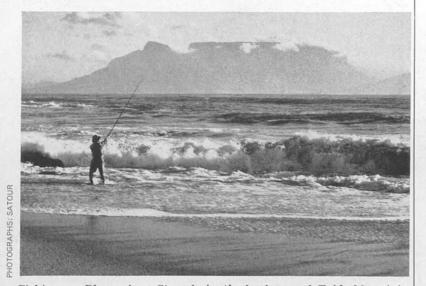
Kimberley, and the world's biggest man-made hole, lie about a third of the way along the route. Those with a few extra days should consider exploring not only this cornerstone of the world's diamond wealth, but the surrounding area of this part of the northern Cape Province that contains some curious bits of history connected with Livingstone, Rhodes and the Boy Scout movement, Behind Touw River the Karoo undulations merge into hills that grow into the mountains whose valleys, lush and beautiful, lead down to the final stretch of plain before Cape Town. In the distance, the familiar hulk of Table Mountain gains gradually in stature.

It marks, nostalgically, the beginning and the end of the journey.

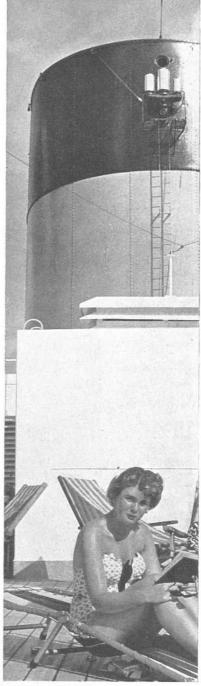
Doone Beal resumes her regular column on 16 June.



Precipitous view down to the Tugela from the Drakensberg range



Fishing on Blaauwberg Strand; in the background Table Mountain



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GOING PLACES TO EAT

C.S. Closed Sundays W.B. Wise to book a table

Maison Basque, 11 Dover Street. (HYD 2651.) C.S. Like pictures, certain restaurants acquire a soft and pleasing patina of age with the passing of the years. I have in mind Krogs in Copenhagen, Grand Véfour in Paris, and the now departed Carlton Grill in London. I would, however, apply the same description to the Maison Basque, whose unobtrusive exterior has graced Dover Street for many years. Its atmosphere is warm, friendly, with an intimacy that is genuine and not created by tricks of lighting, or virtually no lighting at all. All this is a frame for cooking and wines of notable quality, and the standards of service proper to them. There is a long list of speciality dishes, and the Sole Grenobloise is one not to be missed. Naturally, it is not cheap, but you get value for your money. When I was eight I was madly in love with a beautiful little girl a year older than myself. For many years now she has lived in South America, but on her rare visits to London I take her to dinner at the Maison Basque, to talk about spring in Park Lane in 1910. It is that sort of restaurant. W.B.

A kettle of fish

Recently a French friend wrote to me to tell me that he was coming to London for a holiday, and asking for a list of restaurants specializing in fish. For smoked salmon and a sole Colbert I advised him to go to Overton's in Victoria Buildings, opposite Victoria Station, and to Wheeler's in Old Compton Street for cold lobster or dressed crab. For hot lobster dishes and sole done in many different sauces I named the Magnum Room and Braganza in Frith Street. For boiled fish I commended Sheekey's in St. Martin's Court, off the Charing Cross Road: for fried skate (a superb meal when well done) Manzi's, just off Leicester Square. For Nantucket Clam Chowder and Heligoland Fish Pie I told him to go to Fisherman's Wharf in Brompton Road or the Hook, Line & Sinker in Baker Street. If he wanted to enjoy the re-created atmosphere of an Edwardian fish saloon there was the Contented Sole in Exhibition Road, S.W.7, and Flanagans in Baker Street. As a small intimate fish restaurant I praised the Golden Carp in Mount Street. and I reminded him that in season Bentley's in Swallow Street have oysters from their own Mersea beds, and good fish cooking the year round, also that London as well as Paris has a Maison Prunier, in St. James's Street. I pointed out that there he would find dishes and wines of equal quality to those on his home ground.

The new Marco Polo

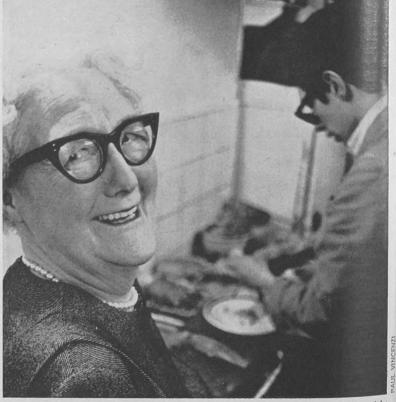
I have news of M. Charles Beaufort, who is to be the chef de cuisine at the Diplomat in Mount Street when it opens in the summer. Describing himself as "the new Marco Polo" he is touring Europe in search of new dishes for its menu. I gather that till he reached France he had not been very impressed with the general standard of European cooking, but on several occasions he has told me that a skilled chef in London with the best of British products can face almost any competition.

Wine note: Buying for the future

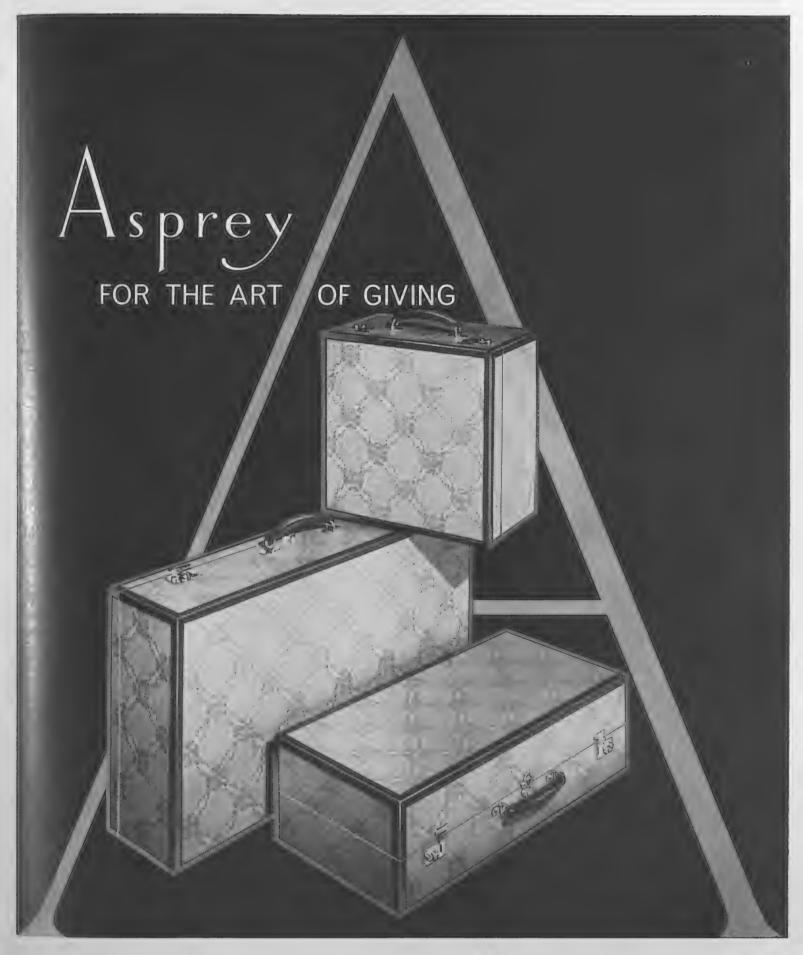
Recently, at the Bakers Hall. Deinhard & Co. showed the 1964 vintage of red Bordeaux wines shipped by Mahler-Besse, At the moment it is not possible even to guess at what their retail prices will be, but those who are interested in buying to lay down can make inquiries through the usual channels. Out of twenty-nine wines shown I noted particularly the following:

Château Roubric, Cambas, 1er cotes; Château Léon, Carignan, 1er cotes; Clos Rol de Fombrauge, St. Christophe des Bardes, St. Emilion; Cheval Noir, St. Emilion; Château des Sales, Pomerol; Château la Gaffelière Naudes, St. Emilion; Château Bevchevelle, St. Julien; Château Calon Ségur, St. Estèphe; Château Latour, Pauillac.

The last five named are bound to be pretty expensive. I predict that when they are older the Latour and the Château la Gaffelière Naudes will be singled out for particular praise by all good judges of a wine.



Mrs. Emily Williams is the proprietress of Sheekey's Fish Restaurant in St. Martin's Court. She is the daughter of Mr. Joseph Sheekey, who started the business, and this year celebrates her 74th birthday. Most of the business is now handled by her nephew, Mr. Lester Fielding



Lightweight luggage manufactured at their Bond Street workshop by Asprey craftsmen. Covered in washable fabric showing outline of the "London Arms" with the name "Asprey" interwoven and bound in leather. Choice of chintz or silk lining.

TOP: Hat Box, $15\frac{1}{2}$ " x $15\frac{1}{2}$ " x 9"—£55.0.0. CENTRE: Suit Case, 32" x 18" x $7\frac{3}{4}$ "—£82.10.0. воттом. Shoe Case for 8 pairs, $25\frac{3}{4}$ " x $12\frac{1}{2}$ " x $7\frac{3}{4}$ "—£87.0.0.



ASPREY IN THE CITY

The City man will find a usefully close-at-hand service at Asprey and Birch & Gaydon, 153 Fenchurch Street where, besides the comprehensive stock held, any pieces can be sent from Bond Street at short notice.





TRAVELLING SCULPTOR

is Mr. Henry Moore (above) at his Much Hadham, Hertfordshire, home with some of the figures being shown in Rome over the next few weeks. Mr. Moore is also exhibiting in Vienna where he has been invited to represent Britain in the celebrations marking Austria's liberation from the Nazis. Painter in his Kent studio is Mr. Graham Sutherland (top) who recently completed a portrait of the former West German leader Dr. Adenauer which was commissioned (and is owned) by Marlborough Fine Arts. It will be exhibited next January to mark Dr. Adenauer's 90th birthday. Sutherland is now working on a set of lithographs to be issued in the autumn

A man of the West who has Eastern attachments Who seeks man-eating tigers, who enjoys the thrill of safari and the excitement of the san with equal aplomb. A rugged Kipling who enjoys all kinds of passes -including the Khyber. A man who likes his curries flavoured with the hot spices of the East, but at the same time never curries favour. This man, poised, elegant, mohair cool in

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Tatler 9 June 1965



The Queen and Prince Philip pause for a dramatic moment at the rough-built wall that divides West Berlin from the Communist world

THE QUEEN'S TRIUMPH IN GERMANY

By Muriel Bowen who followed the Royal Tour

The Queen's tour of West Germany was the most glamorous ice-breaking affair. Though the political overtones seemed to magnify the significance of every smile, every handshake, and every cautious curtsy, the sheer splendour of it all won through in the end.

A little surprisingly perhaps. For the Germans have never seemed to me the kind of people who can make banquets hum however gifted they may be as businessmen and turnersout on a gigantic scale of everything from complicated structures in steel to their celebrated Munich beer.

But after a crowded eight days of following

the Queen I discovered her German hosts to be masters in the art of staging the barrage of social activity that makes up the greater part of these State Visits. They really do have the flair and the panache to put themselves among the world leaders at this sort of thing, alongside the French, the Austrians, the Indians and ourselves.

TOUGHER THAN THE T.U.C.

It can't have been an easy tour for the Queen. So many family ties; so much human tragedy that still feels closer than 20 years. As I watched continued on page 522

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The Queen in Bonn with 70-year-old Dr. Heinrich Lübke, the German Federal President

her walk down the line of boyish and surprisingly unmilitary figures that made up the German Army guard of honour, the whirr of 100 movie cameras filled the air. The tele-photo lens reached out unmercifully to record every flicker, every nuance of facial expression.

Yet it was these curious cameras, and the hordes of German reporters who followed the tour, that changed the atmosphere from the shy reserve of the first days to the jubilation of the end. Increasingly Germany's innumerable daily papers gave massive coverage, devoting pages, instead of columns, to the tour, while regular television programmes were cut to bring in the pictured highlights.

What won over the pretty hard-boiled German press, and eventually the people, was the sheer professionalism that the Queen brought to each and every engagement. "Why, she does 14 hours a day," said a large limping pressman as he left her reception at the Petersburg Residence, 1,000 feet above the Rhine. "It's enough to drive a trade unionist to drink!"

THE PHOENIX CITY

The sparkling setting of the National Theatre in Munich, with its cut-glass chandeliers and

ornate gold and white decor, provided the scintillating social climax of the tour. The stalls and tiers emphasized the German economic miracle in a way statistics never could. Munich ladies are svelte, cosmopolitan, and buy their clothes in Paris. They have unusual style, noticeable particularly in the way they synchronize clothes with jewels. The tiaras sparkled. I counted seven in the "standing room only" section of the top gallery. The guests provided new dimensions in colour, especially a cardinal and a whole bevy of bishops in their red and purple.

Bombs rained through the roof of the National Theatre during the war and it was only last November that it re-opened in all its former grandeur. Great theatres in Germany are revered as much as great cathedrals. State funds subsidize them annually to the tune of £40 million, which scarcely bears comparison with our Government's paltry £2 million. But this particular theatre thrills Munichforanother reason. Its completion ushers in the last phase of the city's rise from the dust.

THOSE GOLDEN BOOKS

When the Queen and Prince Philip appeared at the door of the theatre after the very fresh and vivid performance of *Der Rosenkavalien* spotlights silhouetted them against the ink blackness of the night. There was a restrained Hollywood showmanship about it all, and the Bavarians went delirious with excitement.

The spotlights shone on the Queen's Russian fringe diamond tiara and gave a bright glitter to her dress of diamanté-studded white organza worn over bright azalea pink. For this occasion the Queen's maroon Rolls-Royce was used instead of the Mercedes put at her disposal by President Lübke, because the roof of the German car was too low for her tiara.

Much of the tour was a repetitive process of meeting Mayors and signing all those Golden Books that German municipalities keep for such occasions. Like all State Visits, it has had its dull moments. But here and there amusing, engaging items emerged.



At the Villa Hammerschmidt in Bonn with Frau Wilhemina Lübke, wife of the President



At the State Dinner held in the Schloss Augustusburg at Bruhl the Queen meets Brigadier-General K. E. Bohn, commander of NATO's Northern Army

AND HEMS AND ARGUMENTS

had been some rumbustious little fights in Bonn and the provincial governments, the under, over who should do what. To the h, who have always thought of the German as conforming to the will of the centre, it is a happy surprise to find that the pro-CHIN. governments can be proud, stubborn vinci ontrary to a degree. Bonn huffed and and over Bavaria's insistence that it would puff s own national anthem, but there was play Bonn could do about it. The Queen noth in Bavaria and departed to the strains arriv : national anthems. of th

It fortunate for the planners of Germany's enter inment that the Rhine flows through Bonr It gives a great aura of glamour to official enter ning. There was that extravaganza of light ad colour when flaming red torches every 50 fe lit the banks of the Rhine for 40 miles. "The thine in Flames" they called it. Suddenly

old castles and steep hillsides were bathed in red light. Crowds gathered on the trafficcleared river banks chanting: "Ay-Liz-Bet. Ay-Liz-Bet."

THE RHINE AFLAME

Then came the fireworks; they shot up 400 feet and more before cascading in myriads of fiery fancies into a deep gorge at the feet of the Queen and her guests watching from a terrace at the Petersburg Residence. Between bangs Handel's Water Music drifted up to the terrace from the steamers making a gala evening of it on the river.

Nor was that the end of what the enterprising German party planners did with the Rhine. One of the provincial governments took the Queen and Prince Philip for a 30-mile voyage through this winding, tumbling gorge and gave them lunch on the way. It was something unique in royal tours. Passing express trains hooted in

salute and skippers of a dozen nationalities dipped their flags as their barges swept downstream on the fast current.

Most amusing and individual touch of all came from the castles on the hill tops. They waved what appeared to be white pillow slips from the battlements and dispatched men to the shore beneath to explode welcoming cannon on the approach of the royal steamer. Only a couple of castles were neither alive nor cheerful. Slightly embarrassed German protocol officials explained that they must be unoccupied. A later check revealed that they are occupied by people of French descent who have never forgiven us for Waterloo.

THE IDOL OF FRANKFURT

The explosion of parties somewhat concealed what was after all a solemn and carefully rehearsed exercise in the higher altitude of



In Bonn's Munster-Platz after the Queen had placed flowers at the Beethoven statue



Luncheon in Bonn's Federal Chancellery. With the Queen is Dr. Ludwig Erhard



The Queen about to shake hands with Mayor Willy Brandt of Berlin at the Augustusburg Castle. President Lübke is on the Queen's left and Frau Lübke (partly hidden) is on Prince Philip's right. Included in the picture, from left, are Dr. von Etzdorf, until recently German Ambassador in London, the Countess of Leicester, Sir Michael Adeane and Frau Brandt. The Queen is wearing a pale blue gown topped with white lace designed by Hardy Amies

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international good relations. What do the Germans really think of us? Have our too-frequent economic crises tarnished the British image? At the Queen's evening reception at the Petersburg Residence I talked to some of Germany's leading men.

The industrialists were expansive. They cannot understand why we, the victors of the war, are now not as rich or as successful as themselves. "Why do you allow the unions to demand wage rises every year? Why does not your law make them stick to three or five year agreements?" These were some of the questions I was asked. It has not escaped the notice of alert Germans that in one year—1962—Britain lost 2,275,000 working days through strikes compared to 16,711 lost in West Germany—a country of the same size, same population, and the same proportion working in industry.

But this isn't to say we don't make an impression. We do. Hamburg adores us—so does Frankfurt which has an admiration



A smile from the Queen, a salute from a Goldstream Guardsman before the reception given at Bad Godesberg by the Commonwealth Ambassadors in Bonn

bordering on idolatry for the City of London. The name of the Governor of the Bank of England, the Earl of Cromer, is mentioned there with reverence and the city is mightily proud of the fact that it was one of the first, if not the first, to give backing to the pound when it was under pressure last winter.

A WORLD IN RETROSPECT

For the Germans the Queen's banquet and reception at the Petersburg Residence was the high spot of the royal visit. Many of them arrived more than an hour before the appointed time and waited in their cars.



Growds on the shore wave as the Loreley passes bearing the Queen and Prince Philip on a Rhine voyage from Coblenz to Kaub



Family group on the steps of Wolfsgarten Castle near Wiesbaden where the Queen had dined with some of her German relations. With the Queen and Prince Philip are, from left, Prince Ludwig of Hesse, Princess Beatrix of Hohenlohe-Langenburg, Princess Ludwig of Hesse, and Princess Friedrichzu Windischgraetz

I chatted for a few moments to President Lübke who asked charmingly if my hotel was comfortable and if I was getting everything I wanted. Nobody could be further removed from the British conception of a typical German than the Federal President. Slim, gentle, silverhaired he looks like a family doctor from Bath or Cheltenham.

There were Iron Crosses at the Queen's reception. But mainly, as at all the receptions on this Royal tour the guests were gentle, quiet people, middle-aged to old. They have material success in abundance but very near the surface is the feeling of a world against them because of things past. The elite of Germany today are the success men; the self-made men.

in industry or politics whose voice and general acumen make an impact on their city and

Ex-German royalty isn't often seen in Bonn. They live their own smart lives on their estates, and go to Baden-Baden for race week. Next week I shall be writing about Baden-Baden, which is Germany's top resort.

CLIMAX IN BERLIN

In startling contrast to Bonn was the hard, brittle, brightness of Berlin where the Queen was met by miles of cheering, chanting people as she drove through war-scarred streets and saw THAT Wall. The Queen's visit had special significance since our commitment is small in Berlin, as is our impact compared to that of the Americans.

Berlin adores foreign visitors, distinguished ones most of all. The city government pays transportation and hotel charges for over 100,000 foreign visitors a year to visit Berlin. Why? One reason is certainly the creation of worl public opinion in favour of Berlin doing what it most wants to do-become the glittering



The Queen talks to wives and children of Canadian troops during a visit to married quarters at Soest following a review of Canadian forces at nearby Fort York



The Goen and Prince Philip with the Minister President Alfons Goppel and Frau Goppel at a sala performance of Der Rosenkavalier in Munich's National Theatre. Though Bava: is no longer a sovereign independent state, the principal box in the newly-rebuilt theatre is still called the Royal Box



In Munich the Queen watches a performance of dressage by the German gold medal-winning Olympic team. A special dressage arena was laid out on a castle lawn

capital of a united Germany. Mayor Brandt does more and reputedly better official entertaining than any mayor in the world.

Berlin is heavily subsidized by the West German Government. Money pours in, too, from America to help massive rebuilding. And the whole city as it rises from the ruins is being planned on the grandest scale. Starting in 1951 town planners and architects have broken through the invisible line that divides aspiration from inspiration. They are now working on the Reichstag, which is being remodelled inside to meet the requirements of modern political life. From the top of the Hilton Hotel I looked out on a vast piece of cleared earth that is to become a diplomatic colony. Eventually it will take 100 missions-not to mention all those CD-plated cars.

I crossed to East Berlin to see the contrast between the two cities. It was immense. The West is a city of vigour and surprising gaiety. The East impresses one as a column of sad faces at bus stops. At rush hour the main thoroughfares were as devoid of private cars as Bond Street on a Sunday morning. At Checkpoint Charlie, East German frontier guards meticulously examined passports to the music of a Cilla Black record.

A concert in the castle

The Peregrine Players gave a concert in aid of the Family Planning International Campaign at Cholmondeley Castle, Malpas, Cheshire, with the Earl & Countess

of Rocksavage as hosts. Among those who attended were Viscount & Viscountess Leverhulme, Lady Oakshott, Lady Broughton and Lady Bromley-Davenport

Pianist Mr. Robert Sutherland, soprano Miss Lavinia Lascelles and clarinetist Mr. Colin Bradbury—the Peregrine Players—during the concert

The Duchess of Westminster and the Countess of Rocksavage, who was hostess for the evening







Princess Pless and Mrs. Sacheverell Sitwell, wife of the author

Mrs. R. W. Whineray, who was hon. secretary of the concert, and Mr. A. J. D. Clegg, whose wife was hon. treasurer. Several other members of the committee helped arrange the buffet during the concert

Mr. & Mrs. P. B. Sayce. He is the assistant hon. secretary of the Cheshire Polo Club (see "Early in the field" overleaf)

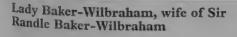
Mrs. Sebastian de Ferranti and the Earl of Rocksavage, the evening's host













Mrs. Peter Black and Miss Valerie Battine



Major A. L. Grant, whose wife was a member of the organizing committee, and Mrs. Geoffrey Dean, who was also on the committee

Early III the neid

Getting the season off to an early start, the Cheshire Polo Club played Toulston for the Russell Allen Cup at their Little Budworth ground. The trophy went to the home side

The winning Cheshire side, from left, Mr. George Barlow, son of Sir John Barlow, Bt., Mr. P. R. Crompton, Mr. M. G. Moseley (captain) and Mr. P. G. Hunter, who is M.F.H. of the Cheshire Forest Hunt

Miss Ursula Dobell, one of the few women polo players in Britain, with Mr. P. G. Hunter.







Mrs. John Barlow watches the match from the stand



Hamilton Ashworth, $2\frac{1}{2}$ -year-old son of Mr. Raymond Ashworth, on his father's pony



Mrs. M. G. Moseley, wife of the Cheshire captain, with Captain Malcolm Sherwin

Captain M. J. Sherwin (left), captain of the Toulston side, races Mr. George Barlow of Cheshire for the ball

Mr. Lee Hardy, a member of the Cheshire Polo Club Committee







Mrs. David Brown, whose husband was playing in the Toulston team. She is the daughter-in-law of Mr. David Brown, the industrialist and car manufacturer

A bride at the Lords

Miss Prudence Glynn, younger daughter of Lt. Col. & Mrs. R. T. W. Glynn, of Harlesford House, Tetsworth, Oxfordshire, was married to Lord Windlesham, of St. George's

House, S.W.1, son of the late Lord & Lady Windlesham, at the Church of the Assumption, Warwick Street. The reception was held at the House of Lords

The bride and bridegroom on the river terrace

Miss Margaret Tennent and Mr. John Glynn, brother of the bride







Mrs. Nigel Lawson

Letter from Scotland

by Jessie Palmer

Francis de Zulueta, Sebastian Pullar, Louise de Zulueta, niece of the bridegroom, and Joanna Glynn, niece of the bride, were attendants at the ceremony





Mr. & Mrs. Reginald Bosanquet

A new lease of life

St. Serf's, the Edinburgh school for girls that was to be closed in June, has been given a new lease of life. The old school in Abercromby Place in the heart of Edinburgh will close, but a new school about a mile from the city's West End will open in September. The new St. Serf's is a large house standing in its own grounds and it is being bought by a company composed of parents of the girls and called the St. Serf's School Trust Ltd.

The chairman of the directors of the company, Mr. Robin D. Laidlaw, who has one daughter at the school, explained to me that the company is non-profit-making and is limited by guarantee. So far, he said, between 20 and 25 per cent of parents have covenanted money over the next seven years. In this way about £17,000 has been covenanted. "We shall need roughly as much again but we do not think we shall have any difficulty in getting it," Mr. Laidlaw told me.

The house the company expects to buy will cost about £15,000, but a good deal of money will be needed for alterations and equipment. "We don't intend to alter more than is absolutely necessary at the beginning," Mr. Laidlaw said. Facilities such as science laboratories and playing fields that are not available at the present school will be provided later.

Most of St. Serf's present staff will be joining the new school and it is possible that the new headmistress will be drawn from among them. The company have even considered the eventual possibility of engaging trained staff to look after the babies and young children of any married teachers they might employ.

Back from India

Recently returned to Edinburgh after six weeks in India where her husband was a visiting professor at the University of Baroda is Mrs. Witeridge, wife of Professor David Witeridge who has the Chair of Physiology at the University of Edinburgh. Mrs. Witeridge had a very stimulating time "trying to find out about women's activities," as she puts it. "What they are trying to do in education for women and children is tremendous, and, of course, the size of the problem is enormous too," she told me.

Mrs. Witeridge has the unusual distinction of being a medical historian. She has been working for the past nine years on a medical history of the 17th century and has already published two books on William Harvey. She is busy on the third now, but she doesn't expect it to be ready for publication this year.

Glasgow rarely finds any great support for summer balls, so it was a brave notion to create one in June and to make money out of it. The notion was Major Ivan Straker's and it paid off handsomely, so much so that last year, the first occasion of the Strawberry and Champagne Ball, £550 was raised for the British Legion. This year on 18 June Major Straker and his committee are planning another.

This time the proceeds are for the Scottish National Institution for the War Blinded, partly because this year marks the 50th anniversary of its founding and partly, as Major Straker says, because the Institution's workshops in Glasgow are in need of "massive renovation, reconstruction and re-equipping." The money raised will be used for this purpose. Earl Haig, a vice-president of the Institution, will be the guest of honour at the ball and he is giving one of his paintings to be auctioned.

About 240 guests are expected to attend and the evening includes a champagne reception followed by dinner, to be brought to a triumphant and juicy conclusion with strawberries. "And they will be fresh!" Major Straker solemnly assures me.



Miss Jennifer Crabbie to Mr. Nigel William Lutley Sclater: She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. G. Crabbie of Essex Road, Barnton, Edinburgh 4. He is the youngest son of Commander C. E. L. Sclater, D.S.O., R.N., and Mrs. Sclater of Storey's Way. Cambridge

RMAN A. CHAI





annual Antique Dealers' Fair at Grosvenor House, Morris Newcombe photographs some of the experts whose life work is the restoration of works of art

Garrards of Regent Street are better known for the manufacture of jewellery but they also undertake intricate repairs and restoration as in the case (left) of this diamond tiara. Their "New jewels for old" service specializes in modernizing dated pieces using the existing stones. There is also an extensive service in the restoration of modern and antique silver. Commissioned work often includes the repair of regimental mess silver as well as privately owned candelabra and tea sets. The Association of British Picture Restorers (below) was formed in 1943 to safeguard the public against untrained amateur restorers. Today it has registered offices in Albemarle Street and 31 members scattered across the country with the nucleus working from London studios like the ones seen below. Members must pass an examination adjudged by a council of six restorers, and work is farmed out on a rota system





William E. Hill & Sons of New Bond Street make stringed instruments, but their specialized knowledge and instinctive feeling for such fine old instruments as this Stradivarius (above) has led to considerable business in the repair and renovation of antique violins. They are also able to buy abroad, renovate and re-export. Making copies from records or a solitary surviving original is another facet of their service and the University of California at Berkeley recently commissioned the firm to make a demonstration copy of the Ashmolean Lira da Braccio. Denys Wrey Ltd., of Sloane Street, internationally famous for their dealings in antique furniture of the great eras of craftsmanship, also specialize in the restoration of 18th-century antique furniture. Their polisher, Mr. Jim Howard, is photographed (*right*) at work on a Regency inlaid dining table











The Victoria & Albert Museum has a Department of Conservation with a staff of 32 under the direction of keeper Mr. N. S. Brommelle. Their work covers the restoration of furniture, paintings, prints, drawings, water colours, ceramics, stained glass, gold, silver and bronze, wrought iron, textiles, and sculptures in marble and stone. Mr. Stonell (left) examines a 17th-century German ivory-inlaid viola, replacing the missing pieces of ivory and correcting the wood shrinkage. Mrs. Sheila Landi (below left) works on an embroidery of the 17th-century Kang H'Si dynasty. The tassels were washed in distilled water, though very little actual retouching is attempted on a masterpiece of this nature. Mr. Gordon Heath (top, far left) works in an Englefield Green studio converted from an old stable block. He restores anything from early Byzantine to Max Ernst: more patience is needed in the restoration of modern paintings because of the comparative newness of the paint. The bulk of Mr. Heath's work comes from museums and private collections of Old Masters. He has also worked abroad and claims that England is one of the few remaining countries where it is possible to pick up a bargain that, after restoration, becomes a sought-after work. The chief restorer at the National Gallery is Mr. A. W. Lucas. His department enjoys the facilities of a photographic unit with specialists in X-ray, infra-red, UV fluorescent and microphotography. There Mr. Robert Shepherd (bottom left) examines an unusually fine Vermeer under the microscope. The department is also able to restore flaking paint with an electronically controlled heated spatula





WHAI GOES CNIFE WAIER

Fashion by Unity Barnes
Each year brings new and more
exciting ways of taking to the water.
From fiercely competitive racing or
knockabout water-skiing to
quietly contented cruising or silent
skin diving, there is a water-sport
to suit just about anyone who cares to
take to the water this summer.
Photographs by Vernon Stratton

Tricolour-striped clinging sweater tucked inside scarlet towelling jeans with a schoolboy belt. By Jer-Sea of Sweden, sweater, 3 gns., jeans, £2 7s. 6d. at Dickins & Jones

BELOW: Sky blue towelling man's turtle-necked sweater, women's version with big roll collar and brief matching shorts. Man's sweater £1 19s. 6d. at Jaeger, Regent Street. Women's sweater and shorts, 51 gns. at Jaeger, Regent Street; Young Jaeger, Sloane Street and main Jaeger Beach Shops

RIGHT: White nylon jacket from America, quilted without bulkiness, 6 gns. Navy cotton jeans with a striped belt, 7 gns. Both by White Stag at Harrods. Nautical cap, £2 7s. 6d. also at Harrods. Waterproof watch by Rolex, £63 10s. at J. W. Benson.

The boat: Mr. Geoffrey Gilbert's Formula 233 by Thunderbird of Florida; of fibreglass

construction, it has Volvo twin engines











ABOVE: Seaworthy sweater in white honeycomb wool circled with navy, £6 19s. 6d. Sturdy white twill trousers, £3 19s. 6d. Both at Jaeger, Regent Street and most main branches of Jaeger. Proofed nylon cap, £2 7s. 6d. at Captain O. M. Watts, 49 Albemarle Street LEFT: Long, long sweater knitted in navy and white stretch towelling, rolled at the neck, over brief white towelling shorts. Sweater, £3 9s. 6d., shorts, 2 gns., both at Simpson The boat: Owen's Grosvenor with an Evinrude 40 h.p. motor; photographed off Cowes LEFT (inset): Stormcoat in shiny dark blue PVC, with a great air of fashion about it that belies its workmanlike character. £3 15s., at Captain O. M. Watts







WHAT GOES ON THE WATER

BELOW: Clover pink, navy and white stripes measure out a lengthy cotton sweater with a collar that grows into a hood. £2 9s. 6d. Close-fitting little shorts in navy stretch Helanca, $6\frac{1}{2}$ gns. both at Lillywhites. Man's navy and white striped cotton sweater, £3 19s. 6d. at Jaeger, Regent Street and King's Road

RIGHT: Super-warm sweater for land or sea in thick oatmeal wool, $8\frac{1}{2}$ gns. with string coloured cotton twill trousers, £2 9s. 6d. Both from Gordon Lowe







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HOTEL DE PARIS ★ HOTEL HERMITAGE NEW BEACH HOTEL ★ OLD BEACH HOTEL Helen Burke / A favourite lamb dish

DINING IN

Shopping with a friend the other day we called at the butcher's, where she bought four fairly thick lamb cutlets. She told me she was going to cook them to a recipe I published quite a long time ago, which has become a favourite with her family. Here it is.

For four persons, ask the butcher to cut four thick lamb cutlets. At this time of the year, each will have two bones in it instead of one, so get them from the rib rather than the loin end; then, when the spinal bone ends are cut off, the cutlets will be easier to carve when cooked.

First make SAUCE SOUBISE. For four servings the following amounts should be ample but make more sauce if you wish: very finely chop 8 oz. of Spanish onions and very gently cook them, covered, in 2 oz. of butter. They must cook gently—not fry. When they are translucent, remove the lid and continue to cook gently to let the moisture evaporate. Work a dessertspoon of flour into the onions and set aside for the time being.

Meanwhile, let } pint of milk heat through with a sprig of thyme and a very tiny pinch of grated nutmeg in it. Remove the thyme and stir this flavoured milk into the onions. Stir gently over a low heat to cook the flour and make the sauce. Add a pinch of sugar and salt and freshly milled pepper to taste. Then cut 3 oz. of unpeeled mushrooms, including their stems, into thick slices and very quickly cook them in butter. Season them well. Brush the cutlets with melted butter and grill them to a warm brown on one side at a high heat. Season them well. Turn and cook the other sides for a little less time so that the inside of the meat remains a pale pink.

Arrange the cutlets in a shallow heatproof dish or stainless steel entrée dish. Spoon a portion of the mushrooms over each cutlet and top it with the onion sauce. Slip back under the grill for a-minute or two and then serve surrounded with plainly boiled tiny new potatoes, turned in a little hot butter and sprinkled with freshly chopped parsley.

ESCALOPE OF VEAL, if of the best quality, is almost as expensive as fillet steak but, with the aid of inexpensive mushrooms (barely cooked so that they do not dissolve into the

dish), one can stretch one escalope to serve two persons. I recently had to make veal escalopes, intended for three, serve four. They did this adequately. Here is what to do,

Chop, not too finely, a goodsized Spanish onion (new, very sweet ones are just coming in). Fry it to a warm gold in 1 oz. of butter, then lift out. In the same pan, very quickly fry b lb. of thickly sliced small whitish mushrooms so that they remain firm. Lift themout. Return the onion to the pan. Work in a dessertspoon of plain flour, 1 teaspoon of tubed tomato purée and a pinch of paprika. Stir in 1 pint of stock, which can be made with half a chicken stock cube and water. then simmer together, while stirring, to cook the flour.

Cut the escalopes into thin strips across the grain and very quickly fry them in butter, tossing them about. Three to four minutes should be enough. Season them with salt and pepper. Then stir 3 to 4 tablespoons of sour (cultured) crean into the sauce. Add the mushrooms and make very hot. Turn all into the cooked veal and stiraround. Transfer to a heated serving-dish, sprinkle with freshly chopped parsley and take to table.

If you make Boeuf Stroganoff, you will notice that this veal dish is very similar except that the sauce is not so dark.

With this dish, serve plenty of long-grained rice. 8 oz. (uncooked) is not too much.

A young man who cooks very well came up with a new (to me) way of boiling long-grained rice, claiming that it requires no rinsing when cooked. I tried it and it works pretty well.

Well wash the rice. Place it in a pan and cover it with cold water to a depth of three fingers above it. Bring it to the boil for 5 minutes, then turn into a colander. Rinse out the pan. Return the rice to it and cover with plenty of boiling water. After 5 minutes' bite through a grain or two. If there is no hard centre, the rice is done. Drain thoroughly and transfer it to a heated serving-dish.

It is a good idea, however, to melt an ounce of butter and a tablespoon of vegetable oil in a frying-pan and add the rice to heat through, turning it with a fork to coat it with the fats and then seasoning it. Use a non-stick pan if you have one.

ANTIQUES

Artistic ability is the hallmark of the Chelsea set we know today. So it was of the 18th century creators of the renowned Chelsea porcelain sets. Why was it that such fine porcelain came to be made in this London borough, and exactly when? These are difficult questions, because it is almost impossible to give any precise information about the beginnings of the factory. However, it is certain that wares were being made in 1745, as items have been traced bearing that date and the incised triangle mark.

The early pieces appear in the main to have been left white. any decoration being in the form of a moulding, though occ sionally small flower sprays were added to hide uns ghtly marks in the paste. The fortunes of the Chelsea factory entered upon a most successful phase four years late, when in 1749 it came uncer the management of Nic olas Sprimont, who had bee a silversmith in his native Liè e. From then until 1752 the mark employed upon all pieces produced at Chelsea was that of an anchor in relief on an wal medallion, a period during which the use of painted deceration was much more extensive. The tea-bowl and saucer (centre right) which belongs to the Antique Porcelain Company—as do the other pieces illustrated-is of the raised anchor period. It is rather an unusual example, with its variation of curiously ungainly moulded decoration of slanting scolopendrium leaves and delicate flowerets.

In 1752 the famous red anchor mark superseded the raised

anchor and many regard this period as outstanding; certainly the porcelain is of particularly fine quality, being very soft and of a fine grain, while the glaze employed is smooth yet free from the speckling so often evident in earlier wares. It is said "no factory was ever entirely original" and it is thought that the flower paintings of the Red Anchor period were inspired by the Meissen "Deutsche Blumen" but the botanical dish can be attributed authoritatively to the engravings of Philip Miller, at one time head keeper of the Chelsea Physic Garden which was rented by Sir Hans Sloane, the eminent physician, from the Chelsea Estate. Sir Hans was a keen botanist who delighted in collecting rare plants, a man who perhaps was dismayed that plants which grow straight should be depicted on porcelain with curving tendencies. Yet even he must have understood the necessity for this when portraying nature's glories on the hard surface of porcelain. This plate, c. 1753, is 8 inches in diameter.

Bone ash, a strengthening ingredient in porcelain paste which made the manufacture less hazardous, only came to be used at Chelsea in 1758, though it had been used in the production of Bow porcelain 10 years earlier. This innovation coincided with another change in the mark to that of a gold anchor (1758-1769), though the red anchor was still used on some items until 1760. The glazing of this gold anchor period seems to have been heavier and susceptible to crazing, collecting in shallow

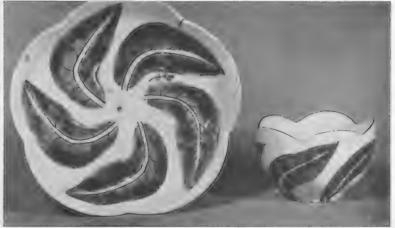
pools and showing a greenish tinge. Sèvres had had success with coloured grounds and it seems Chelsea followed their lead, using royal or Mazarin blue, pea-green, turquoise and claret with rich gilding to add a sumptuous feeling.

Probably one of their most renowned productions was the service of table porcelain with a Mazarin blue ground made to order for Queen Charlotte, who presented it to her brother the Duke of Mecklenberg-Strelitz in 1763.

Some extremely good examples of Chelsea porcelain from each of the periods can be seen on the stands of the pottery and porcelain exhibitors at the Antique Dealers' Fair, which is to be opened to-day by the Queen Mother at Grosvenor House.

Below: Botanical dish, engraved by Philip Miller. Centre: Teabowl and saucer. The small flowers cover slight defects. Bottom: Tureen of table service made for Queen Charlotte







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37 SOUTH AUDLEY STREET, LONDON, W.1. HYDe Park 1228 Pat Wallace / Prolonged euphoria

A Public Mischief by Mr. Kenneth Horne (the other Horne, if you see what I mean) is a clean and cheerful comedy that would not corrupt a 12year-old schoolboy. In fact on the first night there was a 12-year-old schoolboy sitting near me and he spent the intervalclosely observing the pianist in the orchestra pit, then examining the piano inside and underneath before retiring. apparently satisfied, to his seat. I hope he enjoyed the whole performance; in a mild way I did too.

The setting is that kind of comfortable, not too pretentious boarding house, usually known as a Private Hotel. The place is Bath, which gives rise eventually to several innocuous jokes, and the proprietress is a likable, middle-aged lady, a Miss Morgan who, besides doing a great deal of the work of the place, spends much of her time in studying her guests' idiosyncrasies, reserving their "special" chairs for them and smoothing out their little tiffs. I would have said that she was a character ideally suited to the job and Miss Betty Baskcomb ideally cast in the part. The regulars of the establishment include a rather dreary couple: pontificating husband and timid wife, as well as a formidable widowed lady who. in intervals between gobbling chocolates, lays down the law on all subjects and properly comes under the heading of Holy Terror.

To the hotel comes Mark, the nephew of this old battle axe, and his mistress Bridget, who has run away from her husband. His plan is that Bridget should ingratiate herself with the old lady and that he should go through the process of falling in love in such a candid, boyish way that his aunt will bless the prospective marriage and, more importantly, finance it. Comedies being what they are since the days of Plautus, complications naturally ensue. the first being that Bridget has staged her disappearance in such a way that the police treat it as a possible murder case and suspect the innocent, abandoned husband. He has no difficulty in tracking his wife and her lover to Bath where he arrives not as the conventionally outraged mate but as an outwardly detached and benign observer of events. He seems

pretty sure that his Bridget will soon tire of her awkward and irregular situation and come back to him. As it turns out he is proved perfectly right, but not before there have been some frantic comings and goings; Bridget has become exasperated by the aunt, Mark has shown himself as a frail rather than a thinking reed and the aunt, unpredictably, has taken a fancy to Bridget.

In all this, I may say, there is no sense of the louche, even given the tangle of official and illicit loves. The action is quite fast and lively enough to keep one from that kind of torpor that often creeps over one during insistent triangle playing and there are at least three performances that add extra sparkle. The first is by Miss Elspeth March, ponderous but elegant as the rich aunt and with an incisive delivery that makes the best of her lines. Another is by Miss Amanda Barrie, saucy, beguiling and well on her way to becoming a first-class comedienne, while the third is by Mr. George Cole as Mark, perpetually frantic but never losing his exceptionally neat talent for comic timing. Incidentally, he gives a brilliant demonstration of how a nervous man reading The Times can dismember it in one minute flat and turn it into a revolting bundle.

The dialogue in the main is funny rather than witty-a very real distinction—but there are one or two lines that make their effect by sheer naturalness as when Bridget, sizzling with resentment at the aunt, says: "I'd like to stick my face right near to hers and go wa-a-ah!" Or when Bridget again explains to her husband that she first met Mark on Brighton Pier and he asks coldly: "In a sideshow?" The playwright's particular gift, as we know from his many TV scripts, is for keeping the ball of comedy in the air and avoiding those restless moments when the audience begins to think that the plot is not so much involved as downright

I would not necessarily recommend this piece as a means of getting out of the deepest doldrums, but if one is feeling in a reasonably lighthearted mood anyway the play is certainly gay enough to prolong a mood of euphoria.





French singer Patachou (above) has just started a month's engagement at The Talk of the Town. She was last in London nine years ago for a Palladium season and has just completed an eight month run in Folies Bergère on Broadway. Oscar Brown Jnr. (top) is currently in cabaret at The Cool Elephant

on films

Elspeth Grant / The last laugh

Whether you're for or against it. I think you'll agree that capital punishment is no laughing matter-and that screen-playwright Carl Reiner and director Norman Jewison have committed a grave error of taste and judgment by introducing the subject as the crowning joke in The Art of Love (A). I never could get a giggle out of the guillotine, and I didn't here. That the executioner, while testing the hideous thing, declares it's strictly against his principles to use it but, with a pension in the offing, he can't afford to have principles, didn't strike me as at all funny. I'm all for a cynical comedy but this goes a nasty little bit too far.

It appears that to be a successful artist in Paris you need to be dead. Dick van Dyke, being very much alive, is a complete flop-his paintings just don't sell. His layabout roommate, James Garner, a writer whose manuscripts don't sell either, comes up with an idea: a fake suicide would make Mr. van Dyke's work the rage of tout Paris. As they're both drunk at the time, it seems to Mr. van Dyke a splendid notion, much better than packing up and going home to America.

Mr. Garner finds him a hideout in a garret above a striptease joint run by Ethel Merman and there he sits painting away like mad-or as diligently as importunate Elke Sommer, Miss Merman's au pair girl, permits. Brandishing a suicide note and shedding crocodile tears, Mr. Garner gives the of his friend's untimely death by drowning to the newspapers: result—an instant boom in Mr. van Dyke's canvases, out of which the penned up painter gets precisely nothing.

Not content with robbing Mr. van Dyke of the money due to him, double crossing Mr. Garner brazenly steals his rich American fiancée. Angie Dickinson, into the bargain. Well, obviously, Mr. van Dyke is entitled to be livid-but as he turns out to be an even more lethal double crosser than his buddy, sympathy is lost. Once he knows the gentlemen of the Surété are investigating his suicide, he sets about persuading them that he was bumped off by the man who is profiting

from his death.

The disquises he wears in the

process are hilarious: all the same, Miss Sommer is right in her shocked reaction against his determination to make Mr. Garner sweat blood. A busy French police inspector, Pierre Olaf (stepping into the shoes of Peter Sellers' M. Clouseau), delightedly pounces on every bogus clue planted by the vindictive Mr. van Dyke-who laughs like a fiend when Mr. Garner is dramatically arrested, flatly charged with murder and, in a court scene which gives one a very chilling impression of French legal procedure, summarily condemned to death.

This is where, as far as I'm concerned, the fun fades out entirely. Surely Mr. Reiner (who, by the way, has written himself in a witty role, which he plays superbly) as Mr. Garner's bland, unhelpful defence counsel-could have resolved the painful situation without exposing us (and Mr. Garner) to five minutes of sheer horror. The happy ending he subsequently throws in is as palatable as a chocolate meringue garnishing to a boeuf tartare. Take my advice-see the first entertaining hour and a half of the film and then slope off: have a train to catch, or something.

Sandra Dee, whom I seem to recall having once described (how could I be so unkind) as a pink plush pincushion with a built-in pout, gives a surprisingly pleasing and animated performance in That Funny Feeling (A) a jolly little Hollywood glossy, co-starring Bobby Darin as a gregarious New York bachelor, and unfailingly slick Donald O'Connor as his newly divorced friend whose problem is how to keep his art collection out of his grasping ex-wife's hands.

Miss Dee, who shares a decidedly poky flat with Nita Talbot (a deliciously dry comedienne whose style is Eve Arden's though her hands are those of Zasu Pitts) is an out of work young actress temporarily charring (to earn the rent) for a "Maid to Order" service. Her chief job is to clear up a luxury apartment after the parties nightly thrown by its owner, a Mr. Milford, whom she's never seen.

How is she to know that Mr. Darin, with whom a chance encounter in the street leads to a promising affair, is this Milford, follow—and how's Mr.

Darin to guess that the sweet and modish miss he has fallen over and for is his cleaning woman? It's natural enough that Miss Dee doesn't want to entertain him in her four-bytwo room—but it's a bit mystifying to her new boy friend to find himself invited by her to his own apartment.

Mr. Milford having left a note saying he'd be away for 10 days, Miss Dee feels (a trifle guiltily) free to occupy his elegant pad—and Mr. Darin (who's changed his mind about going to California) is so enchanted with her effrontery that he moves in with Mr. O'Connor, leaving her to transform his masculine premises into a bower of femininity, all cushions and cret-

onnes and pretty reproductions of the more banal great masters.

He's a mite worried as to where the valuable paintings entrusted to him by Mr. O'Connor have gone (Miss Dee has hidden them as she thinks they're ugly) and what's happened to the scores of suits that have vanished from his wardrobe (Miss Dee has pawned them to pay for the new loose covers)-but in a comedy like this, who's going to fall out over trivial details that the scriptwriter (David R. Schwartz) can explain away in a trice? Richard Thorpe, directing, keeps the whole thing moving briskly-with a spoonful of sophisticated goodhumour that helps it down.





Ray Brooks and Rita Tushingham (above) star in United Artists' The Knack, based on the Ann Jellicoe play. A locomotive (top) is the star of Fox's Von Ryan's Express, a war drama starring Frank Sinatra and Trevor Howard. It has a première at the Odeon, Leicester Square, on I luly in gid of the Victoria Cross & George Cross Benevolent Fund

on records

Gerald Lascelles / The firework quintet

When Julian "Cannonball" Adderley joined Miles Davis in 1958, everyone expected fireworks from the quintet, and they got them. He and John Coltrane were perfect saxophone foils for Miles' dry pungent trumpet statements. The circumstances leading to the 1959 session in which Cannonball fronts the Davis group less Davis escape me, but the results are interesting and productive. Quintet in Chicago (Mercury) features six all too brief jazz standards, and allows the alto and tenor voices to link and separate in an apparently informal way, though I have little doubt that Cannonball engineered the sets very carefully.

In a more recent album, Know What I Mean? (Riverside). Adderley joins forces with pianist Bill Evans in some romantic moods and ballads, revealing a much calmer altoist, and even a suggestion of retraction from the disciple of Parker to that of Benny Carter, one of the style-setters of the '30's. Wow (Fontana) is more typical of the Adderley approach, and features brother Nat on trumpet in three good tracks, while retaining the supporting cast of Miles Davis' quintet. His opening display on What's New is a superb example of his work, and translates much of Parker's style into the approach of the '60's.

Miles Davis and John Coltrane Play Richard Rodgers (Stateside) finds the team together again in some interesting reissues from the American Prestige catalogue, most of which have been issued here by Esquire. On the whole I find these 1956 tracks more palatable than the far-fetched ramifications of Miles Davis in Europe (CBS), taken from live sessions at the 1963 Antibes Festival. George Coleman's tenor work is almost as far out as the present day Coltrane, and the most important musical feature is that it serves as an introduction to the work of Tony Williams, a very promising young drummer whose tone colour on a variety of cymbals opens new fields in the "tap-and-bash" partment, even though the atmosphere becomes slightly frenzied in the up-tempo pieces.

Blue Rabbit (Verve) serves as a re-introduction to the unusual pairing of altoist Johnny Hodges and organist Wild Bill Davis, whose album last year earned my unstinted praise. This is unadulterated mainstream jazz, with the accent firmly on good solid themes and splendidly voiced variations, utterly devoid of the pyrotechnics employed by the later more recent protagonists in the fray. Even a cursory hearing will give you the hint that Johnny's is one of the great expressive, rather than technical, jazz voices.

Charlie Byrd preserves a commendable attention to melody in his two recent albums. In (Fontana) allows the guitarist full scope to show the variety of his approaches to jazz, and the addition of a handful of other solo instrumentalists gives added scope to the sounds this group can develop. Nevertheless, I prefer his Guitar Showcase (Riverside), in which he seems to extend his personal approach the delicate balance of melodic and rhythmic playing to even greater effect than usual. Two tracks that I earmarked as of special quality are the Latin-American treatment of You Stepped Out of a Dream and the long and brilliant improvisations Ellington's Prelude to a Kiss.

Finally, that maestro Benny Goodman is back in the lists with two sessions which revive pleasant old memories. His quartet album Made in Japan (Capitol) may not throw much new light on the themes he helped to make famous thirty years ago, but both this and the big band's Hello Benny (Capitol) prove that he can still play clarinet in the way that made him famous.



Claude Chagrin, choreographer of Nymphs & Satires at the Apollo, and wife of Julian Chagrin, recently seen in Chaganog

on galleries

Robert Wraight / The most untiring gallery

St. Paul de Vence, Alpes Maritimes

This is my 10th visit to St. Paul. For me it exerts a magnetism that I am as helpless as an iron filing to resist. The first view of it clinging to its hilltop as I come up the road from Cagnes never fails to thrill. And the thrill continues to endure in spite of the press of day trippers, the commercialism of the souvenir shops inside the medieval walls, the expensiveness of the restaurants and the irritations of the parking restrictions.

I came here this time primarily to see the Fondation Maeght which opened last summer and has attracted still greater hordes of visitors to the little town. From where I am sitting, on the terrace of the hotel La Résidence (owned by the mayor of St. Paul) I can see the buildings of the Fondation still higher up, on a pine covered hilltop on the other side of a deep valley. The setting is idyllic, the architecture essentially functional but very pleasing.

Aimé Maeght, who created the Fondation, is a big-time Paris art dealer in whose "stable" are (or were) Chagall. Braque, Mirò and Giacometti. Not unnaturally (but still to the annoyance of certain other contemporary artists of importance) the greater part of the galleries in his Fondation is taken up by the work of these and other, lesser "Maeght artists." Chagall has a whole room to himself and his huge and lovely La Vie covers almost the entire surface of one wall. There are rooms devoted entirely to Braque, Mirò and Giacometti, and sculptures of the last two enliven the gardens and terraces that make this the most untiring gallery in Europe.

Nobody can afford to miss the Giacometti room. It is crowded with scores of bronzes, dozens of drawings and several paintings, an impressive collection guaranteed to dispel any lingering doubts there may be about the stature of this strange artist (a major retrospective exhibition of whose work opens at the Tate Gallery next month).

The Fondation includes also a large group of paintings by Kandinsky and major works by Matisse, Bonnard, Léger and many other modern masters. Had I not made a short detour on the way here, to see the Musée Renoir at Cagnes, I would undoubtedly have been even more impressed and excited by it all. But the musée—the house, called Les Collettes, in which Renoir lived from 1908 until his death in 1919—is a heart-stealer. From the moment you enter its garden the spirit of the lovable, sentimental old genius is evoked with extraordinary power.

The property was taken over by the local authority only a few years ago and virtually nothing has been done to alter it. But laissez-faire, the French vice, has proved a virtue in this instance. The olive trees are a little more gnarled, the palms a bit bigger, the orange trees more fruitful than they were when Renoir sat under them to paint a view of the house, or or his favourite buxom model, Gabrielle, dappled with the same Mediterranean sunshine that is at this moment giving a deceptively healthy tan to my face. The wooden garden-studic collapsed long ago and there is a newly acquired cast of the great bronze Vénus Victoricuse but apart from these things Renoir would find little to surprise him if he could return

I ought to have visited Lecollettes years ago but every one told me there were none of the artist's pictures there. At the moment, however, there are two small canvases lent by the Louvre in the house. Apart from these there are only reproductions of his pictures, a superb bust of him by Maillol, several paintings of him by Albert André, a few pieces of his furniture, studio "props," letters, and personal relics.

And yet, simply to walk through Les Collettes is a very moving experience. Here there is a photograph of Renoir in his studio, sitting in the wheelchair he used to get around the house. And here, too, is the wheelchair itself. In another room is the fauteuil à brancards, a cross between a litter and a sedan chair, in which he was carried into the garden. Nearby is a photograph of him sitting in it shortly before he died, his arthritic hands as deformed as the trunks of the old olive trees in the garden. And if you look closely you can see, tied round them, the tapes that made it possible for him to wield a brush to the last.

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on books

Oliver Warner / Portrait of a happy man

Though it is a shade breathless, The Good Minute, Patric Dickinson's autobiography (Gollancz 30s.), is good value and hard to put down. Dickinson is, I take it, a happy man: a poet who has been able to encourage his fellows through his work with the B.B.C., a golfer who got a blue at Cambridge, a classical scholar, an affectionate and admiring son, husband and father. What more could a man want? Well, an appetite for living, perhaps, and Dickinson has even got that. I enjoyed every line of what is rather a long book, and if I'm here for the next instalment it will be high on my library list -unless I take a chance and buy it on the strength of the present product.

From a modern poet to an early Victorian heroine is a stiff transition, but Grace Darling by Richard Armstrong (Dent 30s.) is both readable and expert. Grace, as most people remember, took part in the courageous rescue of five survivors from a wreck on the Farne Islands in 1838. By one of those quirks that still happen, the incident, and the people concerned in it, got right out of proportion. Grace Darling's publicity would have excited even a present-day public relations expert, and truth-plain, rather sober truth—simply got lost in the hubbub. Grace and her life could be compressed into a page or two, and suffer nothing: but the ballyhoo, which is so well shown up by

Richard Armstrong, was worth this narrative.

Gillray's sometimes rather awful cartoons still hang on the walls of many homes, so Draper Hill's Mr. Gillray the Caricaturist (Phaidon Press 40s.) should be welcome for what it reveals of the facts of the artist's life, and his methods of work. This is a fully documented book by an American cartoonist whose scholarship and devoted attention to a considerable predecessor are fully justified. There are 147 illustrations, none of them, thank goodness, in colour. Gillray's own colour was bad enough: at one remove it could well have been made to seem ludicrous.

Sir Colin Coote in A Companion of Honour (Collins 36s.) has written what he describes as "The Story of Walter Elliot in Scotland and in Westminster." It is, first and foremost, the record of a longstanding friendship, and then a personal portrait of one whose gaiety, courage and charm were exceptional. Almost by the way, it is a political memoir concerned with a man who achieved Cabinet rank in a Conservative government, and one who, though excluded from Churchill's wartime coalition, always retained influence and authority among people who mattered.

"Bill Posters will be Prosecuted." How many, besides Alan Sillitoe in his new novel The Death of William Posters

(W. H. Allen 25s.), will have made a person out of a common admonitory notice? Even "person" is not quite right in this context, for the William Posters concerned is more of an idea—an archetype of the fugitive from the racket of industrialism. As a novel almost in the picaresque tradition, and as a character study of Frank Dawley, working class man, current model, this is swift, economical craftsmanship. The critics were right when they spotted Sillitoe, early on, as a Long Distance Runner unlikely to crack up in the fiction marathon. He will probably write better books than this, but this is certainly good.

The Broads by E. A. Ellis (Collins 36s.) is in the publisher's New Naturalist Series, and I cannot readily imagine a better subject. The Broads, now discovered to have been more or less man-made, have long been a paradise for people wh like to holiday afloat. I can remember when the black sailed wherries used to pl regularly as far as Beccles, an this work takes in the rise an decline of Broadland industry the natural history, geology and so forth of the district, all in authoritative detail. The editor has got together a team of experts who have covered the Broads really well.

Briefly . . . nature can better man-made bombs any time, as Rupert Furneaux shows in Krakatoa (Secker & Warburg 28s.) which is an account of what happened when a great Java-Sumatra volcano blew its top in 1883. Some 36,000 people died after an explosion heard 3,000 miles away. Tidal waves roared up hillsides and turned daylight into nightmare. All very stirring to read about . . . Ramage by Dudley Pope (Weidenfeld & Nicolson 21s.) is a novel so frankly in the Hornblower tradition that I am not surprised C. S. Forester gave the author active encouragement. But Pope is vivid enough in his own right about Nelson, and I am glad to report an exciting new nautical story.

British Silhouettes by John Woodiwiss (Country Life 50s.) is about one of those minor forms of art that are, to me at any rate, often more exciting than the greater varieties, so much more scope is there for discovery. Did you, for instance, know that Ruskin cut a silhouette of his beloved Turner? I certainly did not, and it was delightful to find it illustrated in this book, along with a number of other examples of an art still practised amid the frolics of fairs.



Isla Cameron sings in ABC TV's Hallelujah, opening 4 July

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From top: Elisse, the new wooden look from Oliver Goldsmith: £4 10s., Ogle with wide white frames, also from Oliver Goldsmith: £6 6s., Riviera from the new Umbral range, Zeiss lenses, Degenhardt & Co. Ltd.: £4 18s. 6d. They come in five pearly colours

Five million pairs of sun spectacles are bought each summer though eye specialists say that only half of them are really needed. Some are bought because they lend a fancied air of mystery and allure, others as amusing accessories to a summer outfit in the same way that Courrèges used white saucer-like specs with slits in his Spring Collection. On the positive side, sun shading specs can and do prevent lines and wrinkles caused by screwing up the eyes against the sun. They also ward off the glare that can cause sun headaches. But they should

be of a reliable make so that there is no colour distortion—so important when driving. Names to look for when buying them include Zeiss, Polaroid, Essel and Goldsmith.

Choose frames to suit your face. Those that follow the brow line are usually the most becoming. New looks embrace the steel welders' arc, the owl shape and the butterfly wing with elongated outer corners. The harlequin, though not new, is still a favourite. Most frames this season are in gentle opalescent colours like tan, sage, ebony and gold. New and most attractive are the wooden frames. Since the most up-to-date glasses are not cheap—they average from £2 10s. to £8—they deserve good treatment.

Don't keep them loose in your handbag, bumping against keys, compact and loose change. When not in use keep

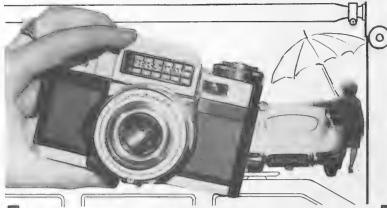
them in their case. Avoid laying them on the

sand or anything scratchy.
It's important to keep the lenses clean. Polish them each day with wash-leather or the specially impregnated soft paper that prevents the lenses from misting.
If you hate glare and tend to wear your sun specs all day long while on holiday, every so often give the skin about your eyes and eyelashes a bonus by finger-printing

eye oil in place of eye shadow, and eyelash

grower instead of mascara.

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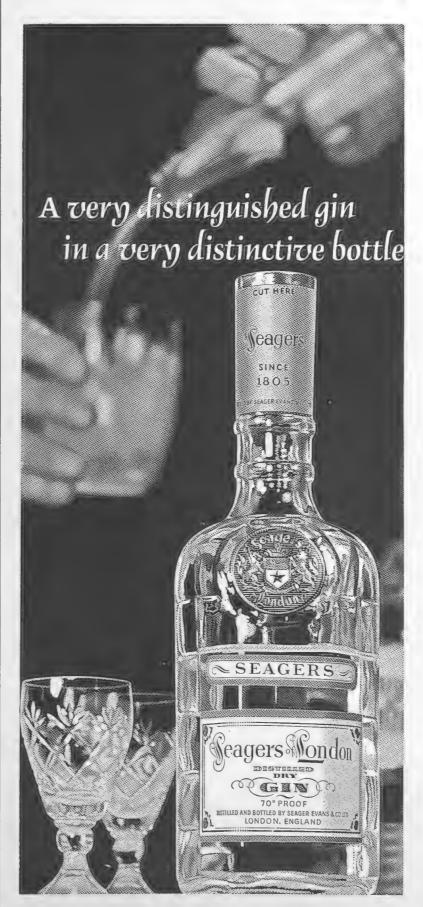
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MOTORING



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The very mention of the name seems to send a shudder through the insurance man, yet the M.G. has always had its slogan "Safety Fast." I would agree with that after driving one of the latest MGBs for a hard weekend recently. Though it was certainly a 100 m.p.h. car, it gave an impression of much greater stability than some of the touring type saloons that also exceed the "ton."

Probably it is the sporty look of an MG that rattles the insurance world, for they make it hard for even a blameless driver to get cover at any reasonable premium (reasonable, that is, compared with a normal saloon). If one delves beneath the surface, there is not much to distinguish the basis of an M.G. from that of, say, a Morris Oxford. The Continued on page 560





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'FUNDADOR'

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MOTORING

Continued from page 558

engine is very similar except for its twin carburetters and the increased bore of the cylinders, which brings the capacity up to 1.8 litres.

Since last autumn there have been five main bearings to the mainshaft of the engine, which makes it smoother in running but may have robbed it of a little of its liveliness. The gearbox is the British Motor Corporation's regular four speed (it would be better still with synchromesh to all the forward gears), and the transmission remains by long propeller shaft to a rigid back axle suspended on half elliptic springs.

The low, slinky two-seater body does, however, make it look as though the M.G.B. is almost a "racer" and gives the impression of travelling faster than a high-built saloon. For this reason it naturally enough appeals strongly to the young motorist, and it is fair to say that the average teenager's dream of heaven is to drive, and own, an M.G.

Well, we know what the insurance companies think of young men in sports cars and even my own worthy insurers, who have never had to pay out a penny in all the many years they have had my business, would doubtless load the premium I now pay by quite a heavy percentage if an M.G. were to replace the comfortable but unexciting touring saloon that at present occupies my garage.

There is, nevertheless, a lure about the sports car, and the younger one is, the more one is prepared to put up with some of its inherent drawbacks. First I would say is the shortage of interior space and luggage room. These may not matter greatly to the gay bachelor. but they rule out the sporty car for a family driver. Second is the unavoidably draughty nature of the soft top model, and its none too wonderful visibility, especially in weather conducive to misting up of the interior. A hardtop, if properly

fitted, is better, but usually costs quite a sum extra.

I am not criticizing the

M.G.B. for these reasons: I readily admit that during my trial of the car it behaved admirably. Throughout its working range the engine pulled strongly and exhibited none of the fussiness and temperament that makes some sports cars tiring to drive. Only as it approached its maximum of 6,000 revs. a minute did it begin to sound busy, and even then the noise was mainly one of active machinery; at all times the engine has a reassuring feeling of "unburstability." The number of cars that lack synchromesh to bottom gear (and this is one of them) is getting less, but on the M.C.B. the omission is compensated by a nicely positive change mechanism that facilitates doubledeclutching into the lowest gear-which is seldom used, anyhow.

On my test car, overdrive was fitted; this is an optional extra costing £60, but it does allow one to cruise at high speed without unduly revving the engine and, when the road becomes twisty, an instant change back to direct drive can be got by flicking a switch. I must make a small criticism here: overdrive will only engage or disengage with the engine under power, the intention being to keep the change jerk-free. This does, however, prevent one using the engine as a brake in many circumstances.

With a maximum speed of some 105 m.p.h. in overdrive (about 100 m.p.h. without), the M.G.B. is no laggard, but fuel consumption runs high if full performance is frequently taken advantage of—about 22 m.p.g. is a reasonable estimate. Under more normal touring conditions 30 m.p.g. is not out of the question. The price of the two-seater convertible is £847 inclusive of purchase tax, but the heater and tonneau cover are both extras, as well as overdrive.

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TAILER 9 JUNE 1965

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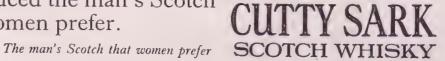
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